



Literally Speaking



Newport/Mesa ProLiteracy 1000 Avocado Ave, Newport Beach, CA 92660 (949) 717-3874

October/November 2011

A publication of Newport/Mesa ProLiteracy, a program of the Newport Beach Public Library

A Celebration of Literacy

By Cherall Weiss

International Literacy Day focuses attention on the more than 780 million of the world's adults (nearly two-thirds of whom are women) who do not know how to read or write. Even though we live in the United States, literacy problems still exist with over 30 million people struggling to read the most basic of texts. Nearly 10% of the population in Newport/Mesa cannot easily read a newspaper or complete a job application.

On September 8, 2011 — the day designated in 1965 by the U.N. as International Literacy Day — tutors, learners and members of our community gathered at the Newport Beach Public Library to celebrate the accomplishments of Newport/Mesa ProLiteracy. Learners shared a wide variety of foods from their home country while **Bristol Farms** generously donated a delicious (and beautiful) spread of fruit and cheese

which complimented the coffee service that **Peet's Coffee & Tea, Corona del Mar** provided for the event.

Board President, Nancy Thompson was the Master of Ceremonies, introducing Melissa Kelly, Library Services Manager and Bruce McKeag — last year's Volunteer of the Year — both of whom addressed the audience with comments about the importance of the literacy program in our community.

Manuela Orso, an adult learner in the program, spoke about how wonderful the freedoms of the United States are, but how her lack of English skills make it difficult to participate fully in daily life. She emotionally recounted how, after four attempts trying to order a tall chai latte, she left the coffee shop in

tears. Now, after being in the program, she feels more confident about her abilities and is beginning to do more things in the community.

Rene Hoffman-Heath & Risa Hoffman once again shared touching memories about their mother's dedication as a tutor of the program. They spoke about how, after Rochelle Hoffman's untimely death, her friends created what is now known as the **Rochelle Hoffman Memorial Award**. They then presented this year's winner, Effy Sanchez, with a cash award, framed certificate and the perpetual plaque which is on display in the literacy office.

Effy was introduced by her dedicated tutor, Vicky Smith, who reveled at the wonderful progress Effy has made in the program. She proudly commented how Effy has worked diligently to pass on her new skills to better the greater community. Effy, when taking the podium, encouraged everyone not to be afraid of learning because "Education makes better families, healthy families and healthy communities." She is truly an inspiration to us all and a wonderful example of what the learners of Newport/Mesa ProLiteracy can achieve.

Everyone left well fed and with a copy of this year's edition of *In Our Own Words*, a heartwarming compilation of stories, poems and essays by the learner's of Newport/Mesa ProLiteracy.



Honoree Effy Sanchez with Risa and Renee Hoffman and tutor Vicky Smith.



Event speakers, Bruce McKeag, volunteer tutor, and Manuela Orso.



A delectable spread of dishes from around the world.



Tutors Carol Cohn and Kathy Alexander



Five active learners enjoy a special day.



**Congratulations to
Effy Sanchez,
recipient of the
2011 Rochelle Hoffman
Memorial Award!**

"Every truth has four corners: as a teacher I give you one corner, and it is for you to find the other three."

~ Confucius ~

New Tutors

We would like to welcome our graduating class of tutors for Summer 2011! Your time and effort is truly appreciated.

Gary Silverman
Emily Hackbarth
Shirley Thorne
Kris Coulter
Joanna Ganz
Marilyn Hobbs

Judy Via
Susan Sebastian
Natalia Milovantseva
Cindy Bao
Marca Singer



Additional Resources

In our last issue we provided some links to online resources for our tutors. We have two more to suggest:

Quizlet is the largest flashcard and study-game website with over 6 million free sets of flashcards covering every possible subject. It's the best place to play educational games, memorize vocabulary and study online. www.quizlet.com

The Times in Plain English is a new newspaper for adult learners that has important news from America's best sources of information. The writing is in clear, readable English.

The stories contain links to the full articles, which come from well-known newspapers such as the *Los Angeles Times*, *Miami Herald*, *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal* and others. www.TheTimesInPlainEnglish.com.

Let's Socialize

Did you know you can find the latest news from Newport/Mesa ProLiteracy right from your computer?

You can now "like" us on Facebook by visiting our page at www.facebook.com/newportliteracy, or follow us on Twitter at NMPProLit.

Social networking has become the standard for keeping in touch with friends, family and your favorite causes.

And, of course, you can always visit our website at www.newportliteracy.org.



Snapshot:

Effy Sanchez & Vicky Smith
Learner and Tutor



Each year, the Newport/Mesa Advisory Board selects, from all of the adult learners in the program, one who stands out for their accomplishments. The 2011 Rochelle Hoffman Memorial Award was presented to Effy Sanchez, a learner in program since the end of 2009.

Vicky Smith is a volunteer tutor who joined in the fall of the same year. She has been working with Effy for almost two years. We recently spoke with both of them.

Literally Speaking: What first drew you to the Newport Beach Public Library literacy program?

Effy: I heard about the Literacy program from my supervisor at work. She said the program can help me with my meetings and grammar, email and pronunciation.

Vicky: I'd been waiting for 2 years to volunteer. I had 2 teenagers, so I felt I needed to finish up my Boy Scout and high school volunteering before I could come to the program. I think reading is the absolute foundation every person needs to learn and grow, to progress, and to contribute and enjoy life. It's the cornerstone that makes everything else possible.

Literally Speaking: How has your work here affected your life outside?

Effy: Now I like to try my pronunciation at restaurants or shopping. Before, my family try to help me and talk for me!

Vicky: My life has been so enriched by this program and by my relationship with my learner, Effy. I think I've also gained more compassion for the struggle experienced by so many adults who try so hard to make their living and raise strong productive families in our society today.

Literally Speaking: Did you ever expect to build the relationship you have developed with each other?

Effy: Yes, I expect to become friends because we spend a lot of time together.

Vicky: Yes, I expected to have a strong bond with whomever I was paired. The learners open their hearts to us and reveal their fears, dreams and hopes. Honesty, respect and dedication to the work, for both the student and the tutor, can't help but build a close relationship. We also really laugh a lot and have so much fun.

Literally Speaking: What are your other interests and what do you do for fun?

Effy: I like dancing and boating with my family at Lake Nacimiento and I like to walk with my dogs.

Vicky: I love yoga and cooking. I've always liked gardening and just started my first vegetable garden last summer. I enjoy surfing, though I'm getting stiffer each passing year! And my husband and I love attending all the USC football games. I also hope to be able to travel and experience more of this world and all the wonderful people of different cultures.

Tutors: Thank you for turning in your monthly report by the 3rd of each month!

Learner's Corner

A Travel Adventure: A True Story

By Marzieh Saraf

It was the last days of winter and also close to the new year. Maryam's family decided to take a trip from Tehran to the far city Mashad by their own car. They wanted to join their relatives for the holidays. Maryam was eleven years old. She, her older brother and two younger sisters were very excited to spend their vacation going on a trip.

It was Sunday. The night before the journey, everything was ready. The children went to sleep early. In the morning, when they awoke, it was snowing hard which was surprise in that time of year. The news said that most of the roads were closed, so the father said "We can't go today". It made the children upset, so the mother encouraged the father to leave. Finally the father checked the road again and because it was opened, he agreed to go. They started their 700 miles travel by a small Volkswagen and six passengers at 9 o'clock in the morning.

The weather was snowy but the family drove until night. They were going at a low speed. Gradually the weather was getting so cold and the road was full of snow and there were no other cars. The sky was completely dark without a moon. They couldn't see the road because every place was covered with snow and there was no light around. Suddenly their car got stuck in the snow and couldn't move. They turned off the car before it ran out of gas. It was absolutely dark and silent. Nobody was on the road and inside the car it was so cold.

The car was in this situation until they saw a tiny light from a far distance that was coming toward them. It was a truck. The strong driver and his big coworker helped to return the Volkswagen onto the road with their own hands. They said "don't worry; we will drive behind your car to reach a safe area". They were the same as angels for them. Every time that the car stuck in the snow, they helped. After two hours driving, they reached a ruinous building that had a light on inside. It was an old inn.

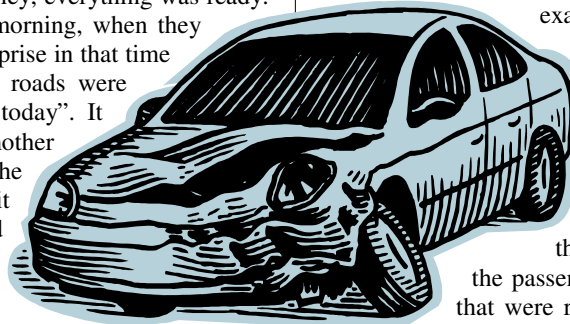
They didn't have any choice but to stay the night there. The owner led them to a humble and dark room. It didn't have any electricity or heater. They lit an oil lamp to warm themselves. It was so cold and they raised up the wick of the lamp. It made too much smoke. At midnight, the mother awoke, nobody could breathe. The room was smoky. It was dangerous, so she turned off the lamp.

In the morning, the weather was better. There was no running water. They had to use water from an old well in the back yard. Maryam and her brother went to get water. They never saw a well before. It was interesting for them, they wanted to look inside. Suddenly Maryam's feet slipped up in the well, but her brother got her before she fell in.

The whole day the father repaired the car motor's engine and the children were playing in the big back yard. They had to stay another night there. In the morning the weather was sunny. The car was fixed and they continued toward Mashad. At noon the road was not crowded. A grader was coming toward them on the opposite side of the road. Its side blade was open. They thought the driver knew and would be careful about this. But he forgot that it was open and passed

very close to the small car. An accident happened. The left side of the car was completely damaged. The fenders were bent and tires couldn't turn, but fortunately nobody was injured. The grader didn't stop. The father got into another car that saw what happened and followed the grader. After several hours the father came back. He was tired and angry. He explained that they got the grader but they released it because the driver said that he was very sorry and he didn't know that the blade was open.

The car was towed to the mechanic shop. Just the fenders were repaired, so the tires could turn. Now it was afternoon but they decided to continue their trip in the damaged car. They didn't know



that the police was looking for an accident a car with exactly the same kind of damage specifications that carried illegal drugs. The police car without blinking lights was following the car and wanted the small car to stop. The family didn't recognize they were police, so they refused to stop. The police made sure it was the suspect's car. So they passed the small car and after a few miles, they closed the road and were ready to capture the passengers. They were 5 policemen with weapons that were ready to fire. The car reached barricade and stopped. The father, mother and children were so surprised and scared because they didn't know who they were and what was happening. The police was surprised too after they saw the passengers but without any explanation they wanted the family to get out of the car.

They investigated all outside and inside the small car even under seats. They didn't find anything. The father told them about the accident. The police didn't have any report about the accident but finally let the car go. The policemen were suspicious and followed them till Mashad. It was 9 o'clock pm that they arrived to Mashad. They could not believe when they finally reached their destination after 4 days. They thanked God, they were safe but the father said our trip started on Monday and it was the reason of bad luck for us. 🐼

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Literally Speaking, the newsletter of Newport/Mesa ProLiteracy at the Newport Beach Public Library, is published bi-monthly and sponsored by corporate and private donations.

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 a program of the Newport Beach Public Library
 1000 Avocado Avenue
 Newport Beach, CA 92660

Upcoming Literacy Dates/Events

October 2	Sunday, 11:00 am	CDM Sandcastle Competition**
October 3, 17	Mondays, 6:30 pm	Communicating with Confidence
October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31	Mondays, 10:30 am	Book Club
October 4, 11, 18, 25	Tuesdays, 10:15 am	Discussion Class
October 5, 12, 19, 26	Wednesdays, 10:00 am	Writing Workshop
October 6	Thursday, 10:00 am	New Learner Orientation
October 6, 13, 20, 27	Thursdays, 10:30 am	Life Skills Dialogue
October 7, 21	Fridays, 9:30 am	Advanced Life Skills Dialogue*
October 13	Thursday, 10:00 am	New Tutor Orientation
October 17-30	Class locations TBD	Central Library Closure
October 27	Wednesday, 9:00 am	Tutor Training
November 1, 8, 15, 22, 29	Tuesdays, 10:15 am	Discussion Class
November 1, 8, 15, 22, 29	Tuesdays, 6:30 pm	Writing Workshop
November 2	Wednesday, 10:00 am	Movie Talk
November 3	Wednesday, 9:00 am	Tutor Training
November 3, 10, 17	Thursdays, 10:30 am	Life Skills Dialogue
November 4, 18	Fridays, 9:30 am	Advanced Life Skills Dialogue*
November 7, 21	Mondays, 6:30 pm	Communicating with Confidence
November 9	Wednesday, 10:00 am	Writing Workshop
November 11	Friday	Library Closed for Veterans Day
November 14, 28	Mondays, 6:30pm	Evening Life Skills Dialogue
November 16	Wednesday, 10:00 am	Learner Network
November 24, 25	Thursday, Friday	Library Closed for Thanksgiving

* By invitation only. Must attend Monday or Thursday Life Skills Dialogue class to be eligible

** Event located at Corona del Mar State Beach

Note: All programs are held at the Central Library unless otherwise posted and subject to change.
 For more details, contact the literacy office at (949) 717-3874 or email us at literacy@newportbeachca.gov